

# TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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## THE HINDENBURG LINE.

WE SHALL soon know whether the German retreat from the Somme was a masterly strategic move or a rout. Northwest of Arras the British forces have captured the ridge of Vimy which overlooks the great coal mines around Lens where their patrols are already peppering away on the outskirts while the Germans are delaying evacuation until they can complete the destruction of the mines. So tenaciously did the Germans hold Vimy ridge that the French lost 100,000 men in the attempt to take it last year. These Lens coal mines are the most important spoils of war in the hands of the Germans, who need coal almost as badly as the French. Their recovery would vastly improve conditions in Paris and other parts of France, where a coal famine prevails. If the Germans are driven back or "retreat" another five miles in this sector they will lose the best of the coal in northern France, and the French gain will be much greater than their loss because France's need of coal is so much more pressing. To yield these coal mines means only one thing—overwhelming defeat in northern France. Germany would never restore this coal to France during the war, or afterwards, unless compelled to do so. The Germans are trying to destroy these coal mines, but cannot do much more than blow up the shafts, wreck the machinery and set fire to the coal. The art of putting out a fire in a coal mine is well developed and new shafts can be sunk with great rapidity into the coal beds, even if these mines are unusually deep. If the Germans yield this vital ground we may see them trying to defend the Rhine before snow flies next winter. If there is any "Hindenburg line" in France it must be located very close to the present firing line. In the first stages of the retreat from the Somme the Germans lost very few prisoners or guns, but when they yielded the ridge of Vimy to the gallant Canadians they left thousands of prisoners and many heavy guns in the hands of their foes. This strongly fortified position was captured with comparatively few casualties and official reports state that these picked German troops were half starved and utterly demoralized by gun fire and their sufferings in the trenches. Trench warfare seems to be yielding to massed artillery fire just as old fashioned forts fell before 16-inch howitzers. Today military experts are again changing their ideas and the final struggle is likely to be between mobile armies in the open field. Forts and elaborate entrenchments which can be located by airplane scouts cannot stand against modern artillery massed as was never before contemplated. At Vimy the Canadians, attacking strongly entrenched positions on elevated ground lost fewer men than the unwounded prisoners they captured. This reverses what was supposed to be established principles of warfare.

## GERMAN BRUTALITY.

WELL authenticated reports from internment camps in Germany establish the fact that officers of allied regiments who have been unfortunate enough to become captives of the enemy have to suffer inconceivable torments while held under duress and victims of a remorseless enemy. The papers have been stuffed to repletion with stories of cruelty exercised by commanders of submarines in shelling women and children cast adrift in open boats on stormy seas, in firing on helpless invalided soldiers on the way home in hospital ships which, under the laws of war and civilization, are always immune from attack, of the scuttling of Belgian relief ships guilty of no greater offence than carrying food to the starving millions of women and children after the commanders of these vessels had been guaranteed safe passage by special edict of the imperial government. All these things multiplied a thousand fold are not as bad as the stories emanating from the internment camps where prisoners have been inoculated with germs of tuberculosis, and officers have been restricted to special quarters where their eyesight was permanently impaired to unfit them for future service. This unpardonable crime was perpetrated by confining the men in rooms painted a brilliant white. The windows were likewise painted the same color and not a single article in the room was permitted of any other time to relieve the awful glare, which after a short time resulted in visibly affecting the optic nerves. Such conduct puts the kaiser's domination beyond the pale of decent society. However, a day of reckoning is at hand as may be inferred from the following heartrending picture carried by the Associated Press as a closing scene in a recent battle. The report states:

"It will ever be one of the most striking pictures of this war, the rout of the Germans at Lagnicourt, after what they believed to have been a successful attack. Running for their own trenches, which were part of the famed Hindenburg line, they were trapped by the barbed wire entanglements which had been built with such great strength and thickness in front of them. The boast of the Hindenburg line has been its belts of protective wire. Caught within the meshes of this wire the German guardsmen screamed madly for help and guidance. Some, trapped like rabbits, scurried up and down the outer barrier, searching in vain for openings. The British troops, meantime, had the greatest opportunity for open-field rifle shooting since the battle of the Marne. Lying flat upon the ground, they poured bullets into the pan-stricken grey-coated Germans until each man had fired 100 rounds. While this was going on, the British field guns came into play with a shrapnel barrage which completed the demolition of the trapped enemy. It was little wonder later, that 1500 should be counted, or that 400 guardsmen surrendered with upheld hands and emotional cries of 'Kamerad.'"

Barney Baruch, who is not unknown to Nevada, has succeeded in saving the government \$650,000 on a single contract for cart-ridges through the co-operation of the copper producers. Now he is going to get the silver and lead miners to chip in. Tonopah is willing to let silver take care of itself, as it certainly will when the times comes for a readjustment of the world's finances. One little straw which shows the way the wind blows is the report of the im-

perial German government that silver coins are disappearing somewhere and recommending that in future subsidiary coins be of the baser metals without any regard for the intrinsic worth of the metallic content. This may do nicely in providing for a domestic circulation but, when it comes to liquidating foreign debts the old standard must be recalled and the world must recognize the double standard of values by placing the twin metals, gold and silver, as the fixed mediums of circulation. It may take a little while longer, but the solution is bound to come and then the producing companies of Nevada will see the advantage of mining the white metal. When the war ceases and normal trade channels are restored, the regeneration will come with a rush that will be as startling as the debasement of 1873.

One good effect of the war will be to teach people that they owe something to their country instead of playing the dog in the manger policy. The latest threat of the interior department is to confiscate all reclamation lands that are not cultivated. This may be done under the generous war power conferred on the president and it would be a timely measure to introduce just to teach some of the land hogs where to get off.

It is a trite saying that every dog has his day, but it remains for a Virginia City pup to get the laugh on a brutal citizen. The latter threw a rock at the dog and in so doing slipped and fell, breaking his knee bone with a prospect of spending the next three months in a hospital and paying several thousand dollars in doctors' fees. Moral: Let dogs delight to bite and bark, but don't hurl stones on a slippery street.

Skulkers who seek to evade military duty by idling behind the petticoats of a war bride, will find they have taken on fresh responsibilities in vain, for congress proposes to enact a law by which marriages contracted after the first of April will not be recognized as a bar to military service. That is the right kind of April Fool to put over.

Tonopah had a refreshing experience yesterday when the late risers wended their way downtown to find that the administration was thoughtful enough to send out a snow plow and clear the way. That was a thoughtful mood and whoever is entitled to the credit deserves a vote of thanks on a gold plate.

The engineering profession is the first one to raise a regiment for the regular army since war was declared, and the members of the profession should be proud of the fact. It was the same engineering class that subscribed a million dollars to alleviate distress in Belgium by taking the funds out of their building surplus.

Chasers are popular with the navy since that submarine was seen off New York, but it may be just as well to explain that they are not taken internally.

## ITALY, THE CHEAPEST COUNTRY AMONG EUROPEAN BELLIGERENTS

(By Associated Press.)

ROME, April 18.—After two years of war Italy continues the cheapest country in which to live of all those engaged in the present struggle.

In the larger cities the housekeeper's menu has become limited by governmental decree forbidding the sale of meats and pastries on certain days of the week, but otherwise the cost of food has hardly doubled. In the country towns and on the farms little or no attention is paid to such restrictions and there food is scarcely dearer than before the war, except for meat, sugar and coffee. While only brown bread may be sold, its price is five cents a pound, the government shouldering the increased cost of wheat.

Governmental regulations forbidding the sale of meat on Thursdays and Fridays, and of cakes, pastry, honey and chocolate on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, have not limited consumption, but encouraged speculation in all foods. When sugar was raised to 5 cents a pound, it was found to buy and can be had in 5-cent packages, as a purchase of coffee. What sales were restricted, eggs were sold at 5 to 6 cents each, or were stored for a rise until huge quantities were confiscated by the government.

Ambassador Thomas Nelson Page has been one of the persons in Rome to try to solve the flour, ham and sugar problem, by making an importation from the United States. At present his is the only family of the American colony in Italy which has as much as a barrel of sugar on hand.

Some American families gave up housekeeping and went to live in hotels but there, since the food restrictions, they are unable to get butter with their bread at breakfast, and in many cases have to substitute honey for sugar in their coffee, a food substitute not unlike the molasses sweetening prevalent during the Civil War in the United States.

## CHINOOK DANCE IS PROHIBITED

GOVERNMENT AGENTS BLAMED BY INDIANS FOR BACKWARD SPRING

(By Associated Press.)

MILES, Wash., April 18.—February and March have passed without the noticeable signs of spring, and the fullblood Indians of the Spokane and Colville reservations are said to blame the government officials for it. The federal agents have prohibited the Indians dancing their annual "chinook" dance, according to the legends of the Indians, which brings the melting winds from the west, heralding the spring.

The Indians begin their dance and generally continue it until the first "chinook" arrives, often carrying on their chant and dance until they become exhausted. The government officials have forbidden the dance, threatening incarceration for any of the redskins carrying it on.

April is here, yet no warm winds have taken away the snow. There have been threats at the reservation to disobey the orders and dance the spring in.

It has just about gotten so in some countries that if a man casts his bread upon the waters, the police take his bread card away from him.—Dallas News.

For Associated Press news read the Bonanza.

## BREWERS WANT TO REDUCE PRODUCTION

(By Associated Press.)

BALTIMORE, April 18.—Officials of the Maryland Brewers Association today announced in a letter to Governor Harrington that they would ask the Maryland legislature, which has been called in special session to order an immediate reduction of 50 per cent in the production of beer in an effort to solve the grain shortage.

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The British deny that they took the rubber heels away from Bernstorff's party. That rubber yarn, it seems, was stretched.—Detroit Press.

The shortage of the sisal grass crop in Yucatan is having a disastrous effect on the output of the pure Havana cigars.—Los Angeles Times.

If unpatriotic senators were things good to eat, that even dozen would surely be ready for serving by this time. They have been roasted to a turn.—Marion Star.

Don't attempt any 50-50 allegiance; it will simply get you between two fires.—Waco Times Herald.

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